



## Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

# MCDHH NEWS

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## MoAD 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

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On Sunday, August 29, 2004 MCDHH and forty-one other state and local organizations, businesses, schools and churches exhibited at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala of the Missouri Association of the Deaf (MoAD). Over 400 people attended the gala. MCDHH proudly presented Governor Bob Holden's signed proclamation recognizing MoAD's century of service to persons with hearing loss and proclaiming September 19-25, 2004 as Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Week throughout Missouri. Rev. Arthur Steidemann was the featured guest speaker, and he recounted his memories of the deaf community when he was growing up as a child of deaf adults (CODA). Historical skits were performed by Peggy McLaughlin and Steven DeShetler comparing 1950 and 2000, noting how television, telephones, visual alert signals, communication, education, employment and civil rights had changed between those years. Delicious refreshments were provided, and people picked up many freebies from the exhibits. All in all, it was a very special, inspiring, memorable, "once-in-a-century" event.



Larry Yates and Bill Sheldon  
Showing Governor Holden's  
Proclamation

## Hospital Communications Accessibility Survey

Recently MCDHH sent out a "Communications Accessibility Survey" to all hospitals in Missouri. The survey is intended to provide data about both the communications accessibility of hospitals throughout our state, and the training needs of hospital staff members so that they can better serve deaf and hard of hearing patients and their families. The survey includes questions about a great variety of subjects, including the ability of hospitals to receive direct TTY calls not involving the relay service, the availability of TTY's and amplified phones for hospital patients, the availability of a videophone at the hospital, the ability of hospital TV sets to display closed captions, the length of time the hospital needs to get an interpreter for a patient in the emergency room, how instructions to deaf and hard of hearing patients are communicated by hospital staff, and so forth. MCDHH has already begun receiving returned questionnaires, and will distribute results of the survey in the very near future.

## MCDHH 2005 Legislative Priorities

**D**uring the 2005 legislative session MCDHH will try to get bills introduced and passed that would:

- (1) Require all television stations in Missouri to use real-time captioning for all local news broadcasts.
- (2) Require that all visual electronic media shown in Missouri public schools, colleges and universities to classes that have deaf or hard of hearing students must be either open or closed captioned.
- (3) Require that American Sign Language (ASL) be treated as a “foreign language” for credit granting and receiving purposes, and that students be allowed to proficiency ASL classes if the school teaching the ASL classes allows students to proficiency any other foreign language. American Sign Language would also be allowed to meet all “foreign language” and “language arts” admission and graduation requirements of all public schools, colleges, and universities in the state of Missouri.

MCDHH would like to invite everyone who is interested in seeing one or more of these bills passed, and is willing to devote personal time and effort toward accomplishing that goal, to join the MCDHH “Coalition of the Committed” simply by sending an e-mail addressed to <roy.miller@mcdhh.mo.gov> giving your full name (first and last) and indicating that you would like to be “added to the coalition.”

Last year, California passed a law requiring captioning of all electronic visual educational materials in that state. And forty-two states have already passed laws awarding “foreign language” credit to ASL students in elementary, secondary, and/or postsecondary educational institutions. Let’s join together and work hard in 2005 to see Missouri “catch up” in these two areas, as well as become the “first” state to require real-time captioning of all local news broadcasts on television (just as Missouri was the first state to require both certification and licensure of all interpreters working within its boundaries).

### “Officer, We Can’t Hear You!” Goes to Little Rock, Arkansas!

**O**n October 16, Kim Davis (MCDHH Workshop/Training Specialist) and Marco Tapia (Executive Director of the Missouri Deputy Sheriffs’ Association) provided training for members of the Arkansas Association of the Deaf (AAD) in Little Rock, Arkansas. The “Officer, We Can’t Hear You!” training focuses on preparing people who are deaf and hard of hearing to interact successfully with law enforcement officers while ensuring their own civil rights and protecting their own physical safety. The training was attended by over a hundred AAD members and other interested individuals. If your community or organization is interested in having this training provided in your area, please contact Kim Davis simply by phoning 573-526-5205 (V/TTY) or sending e-mail to <Kim.Davis@mcdhh.mo.gov>.

### MCDHH Exhibits at Fall Conferences

**M**CDDH staff has enjoyed exhibiting at several conferences during the past several months, including conferences of the Missouri Council of Administrators in Special Education, the Illinois Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and the Northeast Missouri State Teachers Association. Exhibiting at these conferences provides opportunities for MCDHH staff to disseminate information about MCDHH programs and services, as well as network with others who provide services for people with hearing loss. In addition, exhibiting enables us to collect information concerning the products and services of other organizations serving deaf and hard of hearing people — information that we can then take back to the MCDHH office and share with consumers as needed.

## Take Me Out to the Ballgame

**M**CDHH was a sponsor of the “2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Deaf Awareness Night at the Royals” in Kansas City along with Relay Missouri. This was our first year to be involved with this thrilling event, and we hope to continue in the future. There were several hundred people who purchased tickets with proceeds benefiting Charity Sanders, a Deaf Olympic athlete competing in Sydney, Australia. Kids were able to receive free autographs before the game and a coupon for free food, as well as run the bases after the game. Thanks to Mitch Bartlett for coordinating this event and doing a wonderful job of interpreting the National Anthem. The only negative thing about the afternoon was that the Kansas City Royals lost to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays by a score of 7-2. Lets hope for better luck next year.



Kauffman Stadium

## Commissioner Douglas Resigns

**C**iting excessive personal commitments and family needs as a reason, Mr. Darryl Douglas has resigned from the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Mr. Douglas graciously served as the representative of local public school administration on the Commission. The staff at MCDHH will miss Darryl's smiling face, and his cooperative spirit, and we wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

## Super Evaluator Training

**O**n October 29, at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri, Dr. Marty Taylor provided an outstanding professional training session for the deaf and hearing evaluators providing services to the Missouri Interpreters Certification System (MICS). The 5-hour training session was part of the required annual training for current MICS evaluators, and it focused on ways to minimize inter-rater reliability problems when evaluating interpreter performance tests.

## MCDHH Trains Prison Personnel

**O**n November 9, Dr. Roy Miller (MCDHH Executive Director) and Kim Davis (MCDHH Workshop/Training Specialist) met with several special education administrators of the Jefferson City Correctional Center (JCCC) regarding several problems they were having in providing individualized instruction to deaf inmates at that facility. While visiting JCCC, MCDHH staff also met with two deaf inmates in order to get their perspectives concerning the problems. That visit quickly resulted in the development of a training module for administrators and special education staff in Missouri prisons that have deaf inmates in their instructional programs. Dr. Miller and Kim Davis gave that training on December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Department of Corrections (DOC) administrative office in Jefferson City. We wish to extend a special “thank you” to Ms. Lynda Roberts, DOC Education Supervisor/Special Education, for arranging that training. We are now discussing plans with Ms. Roberts to offer a more general training at several individual correctional facilities during the coming spring.

## 2004 Empowerment Symposium

On Saturday, October 30, MCDHH hosted its annual Empowerment Symposium for people who are deaf and hard of hearing in conjunction with the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Missouri Interpreters Conference, which was held at Tan-Tar-A Resort at Lake of the Ozarks. The symposium focused on “Advocacy: Why and How?” and featured six presenters. The morning session concerned advocacy at the local level and featured Kim Davis (MCDHH Workshop/Training Specialist) discussing public accommodations and captioning on TV broadcasts, while David Robinson, Executive Director of The Whole Person, Inc., focused on the role of Independent Living Centers. The afternoon session began by examined advocacy at the state level with Shawn de Loyola, Executive Director of the Missouri Protection and Advocacy Services, providing details of their services, and Dr. Roy Miller (MCDHH Executive Director) discussing legislative politics and administrative rulemaking. The afternoon ended by focusing on advocacy at the national level with Pamela Young-Holmes, Director of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs with Ultratec, Inc, concentrating on Congress and the U.S. Access Board, while Claude Stout, Executive Director of Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. (TDI) and first Executive Director of the Missouri Commission for the Deaf, devoted his comments primarily to discussing advocacy with the Federal Communications Commission. Individuals who attended the symposium left with a wealth of information concerning the benefits, approaches, and need for advocacy by persons with hearing loss at all levels of government. MCDHH wishes to extend a special “thank you” to Deaf Inter-Link for their generous sponsorship of one of the Symposium’s special guest speakers, Ms. Pamela Young-Holmes.

### Fun at Silver Dollar City

There was beautiful autumn weather and many signing hands at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Weekend at Silver Dollar City (SDC) in Branson. America’s best and most unique crafts were enjoyed and purchased at the *Festival of American Music & Craftsmanship*. We had the largest number of deaf and hard of hearing attendees that we have ever had since the event began. As usual, the interpreters who volunteered their time did an excellent job of interpreting many unique events – from cave tours to mule jumping. Be sure to check **MCDHH NEWS** in the future for our exact 2005 SDC date.



Kathleen Alexander Interpreting for  
“Hot Rods and Hairdos”

### A Thousand Voices Needed

This year MCDHH is renewing its campaign to get over a thousand people subscribed to its electronic listserve (MCDHH-L) in preparation for the 2005 legislative session. Subscribing to MCDHH-L is about the only way to get up-to-date information concerning what is happening with proposed legislation that would affect deaf and hard of hearing people, as well as proposed bills concerning interpreters. So if you want to help MCDHH pass legislation this year to improve the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people, or if you want to keep current regarding proposed legislation that would affect interpreters, or if you simply want to keep “in the know” regarding what is happening at MCDHH, subscribe to MCDHH-L by sending an e-mail addressed to <roy.miller@mcdhh.mo.gov> saying simply “add ‘firstname’ ‘lastname’ to MCDHH-L.” And while you are at it, please try recruit a friend or two, and get them to subscribe to the list also. Every voice counts!



## Missouri Interpreters Conference

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Missouri Interpreters Conference was held on October 29, 30, and 31, 2004 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri. The conference was attended by over 600 participants. The keynote speech was given by Dr. Marty Taylor of Alberta, Canada, and the endnote presentation was given by John Maucere, a professional deaf entertainer from Hollywood, California. Dr. Taylor also held two separate 2-hour workshops at the conference along with a book signing. The conference included an all time record of forty-one exhibitors, an MCDHH Social, the MCDHH Chat and Game Room, a Halloween Costume Party, a Silent Auction, and twenty-seven informative workshops. The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing wishes to thank everyone who helped make the conference such a great success.

## MCDHH Hosts Town Hall Meetings

MCDHH hosted several town hall meetings in September in order to solicit input concerning the possible 2005 Legislative Priorities, congratulate the Missouri Association of the Deaf (MoAD) for their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and gather information from the deaf and hard of hearing communities about their experience with Department of Mental Health (DMH) services. Town Hall meetings were held in three locations, Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield. The meetings were well attended, and we heard many of the same themes across the state. DMH has contracted with an independent consultant who facilitated the DMH portion of the meetings, and who will be putting together a report of the information he has gathered. We are interested in seeing what changes in DMH policies these meetings may bring in the future. Many thanks to all of those who participated.

## Eye to the Future - 47<sup>th</sup> Biennial NAD Conference

This past July, the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) held their 47<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Kansas City, MO. Approximately 1,500 people from all over the nation attended. Dr. Roy Miller and Kim Davis of the MCDHH staff presented a workshop entitled "Officer, We Can't Hear You!" And Dr. Miller presented an additional workshop entitled "Is There A Place In The Deaf Community For A Late-Deafened Adult?" Amy Fowler and Kandice Allee maintained the MCDHH exhibit booth throughout the conference, and processed the necessary paperwork for interpreters seeking MICS, KQAS, ACET or RID CEU's for attending approved workshops at the conference. The NAD conference featured a variety of events, including opening and closing ceremonies, exhibits, workshops, forums, keynote speakers, NAD College Bowl finals, NAD Miss Deaf America finals, the presentation of NAD recognition awards, a silent auction and several special events designed for senior citizens and youths.



MCDHH Staff at the CSD Exhibit Booth

## New Listserv for Missouri Interpreters

**M**CDHH has created a new listserv (MO-TERPS-L) for interpreters that are certified in the Missouri Interpreters Certification System (MICS), as well as others who might be interested in receiving information concerning interpreting in Missouri. MO-TERPS-L is a listserv that has been created exclusively to distribute information and action alerts from MCDHH. A variety of information will be distributed on MO-TERPS-L, including notices concerning CEU renewals, legislative activities affecting Missouri interpreters, future workshops to be offered for interpreters by MCDHH, the annual Missouri Interpreters Conference, and job announcements. The listserv is not a discussion forum where people voice their opinions about various issues of potential importance to interpreters. Rather, only requests, announcements and reports from MCDHH are distributed on MO-TERPS-L. In order to receive messages from MO-TERPS-L, send an email request addressed to <MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov>.

### Another Six Flags Success

**T**he 11<sup>th</sup> Annual MCDHH Deaf Awareness Day at Six Flags St. Louis was a huge success again this year. The weather was gorgeous; we had a great turnout, and we were pleased to have DEAFYWOOD provide special deaf entertainment this year. They were sponsored by Relay Missouri, and performed their ever-famous SUPERDEAFY and other skits. We had a large number of exhibitors that educated those who stopped by with questions, and all of the interpreters did an excellent job throughout the day. Thanks to all of those who worked so very hard to make this year's event such a success.



John Maucere and  
Mike Anderson

### Call Kim If You Need A Workshop

**T**he staff of MCDHH is available to provide presentations, trainings and workshops on a variety of topics related to hearing loss, including the mission of MCDHH, the nature of hearing loss, sensitivity training, assistive technology, Deaf culture, empowerment of persons with hearing loss, legislative advocacy, American Sign Language, and the legal rights of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Kim Davis (MCDHH Workshop/Training Specialist) can also create a workshop or training session designed specifically for the enhancement of interpreting skills, and Continuing Education Units (CEU's) will be given to interpreters attending such workshops. So, if you are interested in having a workshop or training session offered in your area, all you need to do is contact Kim Davis by phoning 573-526-5205 (V/TTY) or sending an e-mail to <kim.davis@mcdhh.mo.gov>.

### Columbia, Here We Come!

**T**he 2005 Missouri Interpreters Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Select in Columbia, Missouri. This move will provide many benefits, including improved parking facilities, a greater choice of restaurants, and shorter travel times for the vast majority of our attendees. Mark your calendars now, and plan to join us on October 28-30, 2005, as we enjoy the benefits of new surroundings for our annual conference. Contact Amy Fowler either by calling 573-526-5205 (V/TTY) or sending e-mail to <amy.fowler@mcdhh.mo.gov> if you have questions concerning the conference.

## MCDHH Annual Awards

**M**CDHH held its annual awards ceremony on Saturday evening, October 30, at Tan-Tar-A Golf Resort and Spa in conjunction with the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Missouri Interpreters Conference. Recipients of this year's awards were:

Tara Bennett (St. Joseph) - Deaf Evaluator of the Year  
 Stacey Whiseheart (Nixa) - Hearing Evaluator of the Year  
 Representative Vicki Walker (Kansas City) - MCDHH Angel of the Year  
 Ms. Mary Sheridan (Fulton) - MCDHH Employee of the Year

Alta and Daniel Bradshaw (Hazelwood) - MCDHH Lifetime Achievement Award  
 Harold Hankins (Lees Summit) - MCDHH Lifetime Achievement Award  
 Marthada Reed (Fulton) - MCDHH Lifetime Achievement Award  
 Mary Stodden (St. Charles) - MCDHH Lifetime Achievement Award

Please make the effort to CONGRATULATE these people the next time that you see any of them, and let them know that their services to people who are deaf and hard of hearing are greatly appreciated.

## MCDHH Meets with MoASLTA

**O**n November 29, several members of the MCDHH staff met with representatives of the Missouri ASL Teachers Association (MoASLTA) and discussed plans for introducing a bill in the legislature again this year that would enable students to take American Sign Language (ASL) classes for "foreign language" credit. At that meeting Dr. Miller (MCDHH Executive Director) explained many of the issues that have surfaced regarding proposed ASL bills in the past, and pledged to work with MoASLTA to get an ASL bill passed this year. This will be one of the highest legislative priorities for MCDHH during 2005, and we will need the involvement and support of many people if we are to be successful this year.

## Training for New MICS Evaluators

**T**his year MCDHH had seven new people join its pool of evaluators for the Missouri Interpreters Certification System (MICS). Initial training for the new evaluators was held on July 23-24, and the training was provided by Kim Davis (MCDHH Workshop/Training Specialist) and Kandice Allee (MCDHH Executive Assistant / Staff Interpreter). New evaluator trainees included five deaf people and two hearing interpreters. It is hoped that with an increased pool of evaluators the MCDHH office will be able to continue throughout the coming year sending out all performance test results within ninety days from the date of testing.

## Date for 2005 Empowerment Symposium

**P**lease mark your calendar for October 29, 2005. That will be the date of the 2005 MCDHH Empowerment Symposium, and it will be held at the Holiday Inn Select in Columbia, Missouri. The symposium will be held in conjunction with the Missouri Interpreters Conference. More information will be posted on the MCDHH website <[www.mcdhh.state.mo.us](http://www.mcdhh.state.mo.us)> as next year's Symposium draws nearer.

## Commission Members

Antonina Wilson, Chair  
Parent of a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Child

Kathleen Alexander  
Interpreter

Thomas Bastean  
Dept. of Elem. & Sec. Ed/MSD

Paul Blicharz  
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Org.

Michael Boyd  
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Member

Vacant  
Local Public School Administrator

Lisa Geier  
Professional—Audiology

Leslie Hall  
Business Community

Vacant  
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Member

## ALDA Conference

In September, Dr. Roy Miller (MCDHH Executive Director) attended the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) in Burlington, Vermont. As a past-president of ALDA, Dr. Miller has a special and continuing interest in ensuring that MCDHH represents the needs of late-deafened persons. While attending the ALDA conference, Dr. Miller gave a presentation entitled “Benefits of Deafness,” which stressed many positive features of being deaf in a variety of situations, including while sleeping, at work, in noisy cities, when driving, and while traveling. The suggestion that there are a great variety of very positive benefits to being deaf was a much needed message for many of the recently deafened persons in the audience.

## Happy New Year Everyone !!!

As 2004 draws to a close, the staff at MCDHH wishes all of our readers a **HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON** and a **PEACEFUL NEW YEAR**. It is our great privilege to serve as a voice for deaf and hard of hearing Missourians, and to represent their interests both here in our capitol city and around the state. Thank you for allowing us to be of service.



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